

Remarks

Claim status

Claims 1, 3-15, 17, 18, 20 and 22 are pending. Claims 1 is amended. Claim 20 is withdrawn.

IDS filed after final

An IDS was filed on Dec. 9, 2010, which was after the mailing of the final Office Action on November 4, 2010. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the IDS.

Rejections Under 37 C.F.R. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Bauer et al (US 6548121) in view of Affinito (US 2004011288) in view of Borden et al as evidenced by Callister et al (Callister, William D. Materials Science and Engineering: an Introduction. 4th Edition (1997) New York, John Wiley and sons. P 477.).

Applicants respectfully traverse. **Bauer** is related to a process of preparing coatings with good adhesion achieved by first depositing a layer of photoinitiator on a pretreated substrate, and the preferred condition of depositing photoinitiators is under vacuum. The objective of the present invention is to provide a cost effective process for obtaining coatings with excellent adhesion on a pretreated metalized substrates under normal pressure.

Applicants have amended claim 1, step a) to specify: wherein the substrate is metalized with layers of metal. The present application discloses specific examples that demonstrate excellent coatings on substrate metalized with metal, e.g. a polyethylene foil deposited with a layer of aluminum as used in Example 1. Clearly **Bauer** did not teach or suggest a step like step a) of the present invention, as amended. In fact, all the examples (1-4) are carried out on plastic type of substrate. **Affinito** relates to methods and apparatus of vacuum deposition and curing of thin polymer films with emphasis on optimizing mild vaporizing conditions. Nothing in **Affinito**'s teaching can fill the gap between **Bauer** and the present invention as amended, i.e. the limitation of the substrate specified in step a). **Borden** discloses photosensitizer compositions useful for coatings and ink, but nothing in **Borden** can cure the deficiency of **Bauer** in terms of the specific substrate. One skilled in the art would not have been able to combine **Bauer** and **Affinito** or **Borden** and arrive at the invention as claimed. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is not obvious over **Bauer**, or the combination of **Bauer**, **Affinito** and **Borden**.

In view of the claim amendments and the argument above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of obvious rejections of claim 1, and the dependent claims 3-15, 17, 18, and 22. Allowance of the claimed subject matter is respectfully solicited.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

BASF Corporation
Patent Department
100 Campus Drive
Florham Park, NJ 07932

Tel. (973) 245-7747

/Qi Zhuo/
Qi (Chee) Zhuo, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants

Reg. No. 63,749